



**U.S. Department of Justice**  
Office of Information Policy  
*Suite 11050*  
1425 New York Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Telephone: (202) 514-3642

May 19, 2017

Mr. Alex Abdo  
Knight First Amendment  
Institute at Columbia University  
535 West 116<sup>th</sup> Street  
314 Low Library  
New York, NY 10027  
[alex.abdo@knightcolumbia.org](mailto:alex.abdo@knightcolumbia.org)

Re: DOJ-2017-003961 (AG)  
VRB:DRH:KJK

Dear Mr. Abdo:

This responds to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated and received in this Office on May 9, 2017, for records pertaining to agency prepublication review of writings by certain former government officials. This response is made on behalf of the Office of the Attorney General.

Please be advised that a search has been conducted of the electronic database of the Departmental Executive Secretariat, which is the official records repository for the Office of the Attorney General, and no records responsive to your request were located. We also conducted a search of the records indices of the administration of former Attorney General John Ashcroft. The indices supplement the electronic database of the Departmental Executive Secretariat and list file folder titles, arranged according to subject, for the records of former Office of the Attorney General staff. Additionally, no records were found as a result of this search.

Based on our research into this matter, you might want to direct your request to the National Security Division (NSD) as the Department component most likely to maintain records concerning the prepublication review of national security information. Contact information for NSD can be found on [www.foia.gov](http://www.foia.gov).

For your information, Congress excluded three discrete categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of the FOIA. *See* 5 U.S.C. § 552(c) (2012). This response is limited to those records that are subject to the requirements of the FOIA. This is a standard notification that is given to all our requesters and should not be taken as an indication that excluded records do, or do not, exist.

You may contact our FOIA Public Liaison at the telephone number listed above for any further assistance and to discuss any aspect of your request. Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact

information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, Room 2510, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001; e-mail at [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov); telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

If you are not satisfied with my response to this request, you may administratively appeal by writing to the Director, Office of Information Policy, United States Department of Justice, Suite 11050, 1425 New York Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20530-0001, or you may submit an appeal through OIP's FOIAonline portal at <https://foiaonline.regulations.gov/foia/action/public/home>. Your appeal must be postmarked or electronically submitted within ninety days of the date of my response to your request. If you submit your appeal by mail, both the letter and the envelope should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Vanessa R. Brinkmann", with a small "BR" monogram at the end.

Vanessa R. Brinkmann  
Senior Counsel